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AGREEMENT

FOR THE

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Satellite reconnaissance as used herein encompasses the operation of satellites for the primary purpose of collecting national intelligence information, although these satellites may also support the intelligence information requirements of tactical commanders in addition to their primary missions. In order to optimize efficiency and cost effectiveness and to maintain necessary protective security, satellite reconnaissance activities should be conducted under single and direct management. Therefore, in the interest of national security and pursuant to the National Security Act of 1947 as amended, the National Security Council authorizes and directs that satellite reconnaissance activities be carried out as the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) of the United States to be conducted under national leadership as prescribed herein.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The functions of the NRP include the development, management, control and operation of all projects, both current and long range, for the collection of intelligence information by spacecraft. Included are all image forming sensors of reconnaissance quality, non-image forming sensors designed for reconnaissance purposes and signal and electronic devices. In addition, the National Reconnaissance Program will involve the aggressive development and pursual of advanced technology for the collection of intelligence by spacecraft which is fully responsive to the intelligence needs and objectives of the United States.

A National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) will be administratively established within the Department of Defense. It will provide the necessary streamlined management to permit

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accomplishment of an effective satellite reconnaissance program and will serve as a source of expertise in facilitating development of requirements for satellite reconnaissance systems. It will be designated as a highly classified separate operating agency and will not be subjected to normal review or oversight.

The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office will be appointed by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence. To insure the optimum common use of space support resources, the Director, NRO will normally serve also as the full-time Under Secretary of the Air Force and he will:

- Assure that the Director of Central Intelligence, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and other officials having related responsibilities and interests are kept appropriately informed of satellite reconnaissance activities.

- Assure that reconnaissance satellite operations respond to the collection requirements for national intelligence issued by the Director of Central Intelligence with the advice of the USIB.

- Assure that SIGINT satellite development, control and operation are compatible with the SIGINT processing responsibility of the Director, National Security Agency and that on-orbit activities are compatible with other national directives and established organizational relationships.

- Assure that satellite system development includes development of the tasking, processing and training components so as to be compatible with the requirements, responsibilities and relationships of the using agencies.

#### MANAGEMENT

The Secretary of Defense is responsible to the United States Government for the execution of the NRP and the maintenance of the NRO.

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The Director of Central Intelligence is responsible to the United States Government for proper establishment of requirements to be satisfied through national satellite reconnaissance, for the balancing of the level of satellite collection and exploitation in order to optimize intelligence output, and for the operation of a Special Security Center to provide security policy guidance covering the overall NRP area.

The NRP Executive Committee, consisting of the Director of Central Intelligence and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) and such additional members as may be agreed upon by the Secretary of Defense and Director of Central Intelligence with the advice of the National Security Council, will formulate, guide and approve resource allocations and assure the proper balancing of projects within the program.

The Director, NRO will be responsible to the Secretary of Defense for the execution of the National Reconnaissance Program and will have the required authority to act for the Secretary in the discharge of this responsibility. He will be responsive to the guidance of the Executive Committee in the allocation of resources. He will manage assignments within the program, project reviews and studies associated with satellite reconnaissance. He will initiate, approve and direct research and development in the pursuance of advanced technology for satellite reconnaissance. He will sit with the United States Intelligence Board and other councils as necessary.

The National Reconnaissance Office will be manned by the three military departments, CIA and NSA. The selection of personnel from these agencies will be made by the Director, NRO, in consultation with the heads of these agencies. The principal staff security advisor to the D/NRO will be provided by the CIA. The NRO Staff will have sufficient manning to provide primary support to the NRP Executive Committee principals through the Director, NRO. There will be three program offices, one from the Air Force, one from the CIA, and one from the Navy. The program offices will be responsive directly to the Director, NRO for satellite development and operational activities and projects will be assigned by the Director, NRO to the program offices in accordance with their capabilities.

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The Director, NRO will furnish necessary budget and program data to the Executive Committee, the Secretary of Defense, Congress and other appropriate Government officials. He will maintain a dedicated comptroller staff to manage the dollar resources allocated to the program.

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Secretary of Defense

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Central Intelligence

OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

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5 OF 5 COPIES  
PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

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 PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES